

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

AMERICAN PUBLIC KNOWS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "DEMOCRATIC SPIN" AND THE TRUTH

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the President yesterday sternly warned Republicans against "squandering the surplus." Well, I presume that reference was to the first Federal budget surplus since Neil Armstrong walked on the moon.

I must say that the President and the liberal Democrats ought to know a lot about "squandering the surplus," since they have been squandering taxpayers' money year after year after year.

It is ironic that these very same people who believe that it is okay to lie to the American people would call anyone who advocates spending less than \$1.7 trillion surplus an "extremist," and they would feel qualified to lecture the U.S. about squandering money.

It is ironic that these very same people who have proposed billions and billions of dollars in new programs would have the audacity to lecture Republicans about squandering money.

It is ironic that these very same people who accuse Republicans of being mean-spirited for cutting their wasteful, counterproductive, bureaucratic programs now believe they should attempt to impart their wisdom about the evils of squandering money.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back any balance of my time, feeling certain that the American public know the difference between Democratic spin and the truth.

BAILOUT FOR RICH FAT CATS ON WALL STREET

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, check this out. A bunch of rich, fat cats on Wall Street, through their hedge fund, gambled \$100 billion on the Russian ruble with borrowed American money.

We can figure it out, they lost big time and the Fed had to bail them out saying if they did not, there could possibly be a depression in America.

Unbelievable, is it not? Think about it. Bailout for Russia, bailout for Japan, bailout for Mexico, bailout for rich fat cats gambling with our money, and now we are talking about an \$18 billion bailout for Brazil and Russia, who are dumping steel illegally in America destroying our economy.

Beam me up.

What is next? Foreign aid for China? I do not think Congress will wise up until Uncle Sam needs a bailout. I yield back whatever money is left.

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it is story time once again. Once upon a time, a girl named Little Red Riding Hood was traveling alone to a big white house in the woods. In her travels, she encountered a predator: A sly and vicious wolf.

And as this story tells us, the Wolf, smacking his lips, exclaimed, and I read, "What a plump little lass."

The Wolf, an expert on preying on women of all shapes and sizes, called out to her, "Would you like to have some pizza as I shut some things down?"

Well, Little Red Riding Hood, not knowing what she was getting into, and really liking pizza, agreed and proceeded to the big white house. It was there that the wolf did his dirty work.

Sadly, it was only for fear of the hunters that the Big Bad Wolf and his friends let Little Red Riding Hood go. They even tried to send her traveling to another den of wolves in the big city.

Today, we still have wolves in high places who use deception to cover their evil intentions. These predators who prey on young women without care for the consequences must be stopped.

DEMOCRATS WILL STAY UNTIL EDUCATION NEEDS ARE ADDRESSED

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that even though it is the 11th hour in these budget negotiations, the Republican leadership has still not agreed to the Democrat school modernization program.

Let me say how important that program is. In almost every school district around this country there is a need for modernization of schools, whether that means rewiring for computers or it means having to build a school addition or just repairing a roof. And we know that many of the school districts around the country simply do not have

the money or they cannot get bond, they cannot bond at a good interest rate to be able to do those kind of modernization programs.

Why are the Republicans insisting that this not be included in the final budget agreement? We have been here now for almost 2 years and they still insist that this education initiative is not necessary.

Let me tell my colleagues, it is necessary. Democrats will stay here as long as it takes to make sure that this is included in the budget before we go home, because we know that it is needed. Education is the future of this country, and kids are not going to be able to learn how to read or function properly if the school buildings are not up to snuff.

FOCUS ON EDUCATION

(Ms. STABENOW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues in these final days to focus our attention on education. We have asked that we spend one day focused on the future of our country, on education for our children, and that has yet to happen.

Mr. Speaker, I know in Michigan, in my State, we have been working in volunteer efforts to wire schools with business-labor community groups to bring technology so that our children are prepared for the future. But this is a partnership that every level of government, as well as the private sector, must be involved in if our children are going to be prepared.

In too many schools in my district there is more computer power in the average gas station than the average classroom, and that is just not good enough.

We have an opportunity in this budget at this time to make a commitment in partnership with our local communities, with the private sector, with our States, to make sure that our children have the resources and have the kinds of equipment that they need so they can be prepared for the jobs of the future.

THEY WERE WRONG

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the same people who are whining about a "do-nothing Congress" are the very same people who accuse the Republicans of being "extremist" for proposing to reform welfare.

They were wrong.

They are also the very same people who attacked Republicans for reforming Medicare and saving it from bankruptcy for another decade.

They were wrong.

They are also the very same people who said we could not balance the budget and cut taxes at the same time.